

Ref.
Def. Doc. No. 1135

The Announcement of the Information Bureau
Concerning the Problem of the Return of English
and Americans in CHINA and Other Problems
(17 July 1943)

Negotiations between JAPAN and the UNITED STATES concerning the problem of the return of Americans to HANKING and the lower areas watered by the YANGTZE River have remained pending for some days past. The Imperial Government, in view of the friendly relations between both countries and in consideration of the kind efforts of U.S. Ambassador GRW, issued the following official letter dated July 6th, addressed to the U.S. Ambassador in TOKYO, which contains the solution to this problem.

I have the honor of informing you that I am in receipt of your letter of May 31st containing reference to your letter of May 17th which was addressed to former Foreign Minister HIROTA and which stated, as per instruction from your government, that your government is deeply interested in making it possible for American citizens in CHINA to return again to, or possess their own property from which they were forced to leave by the Japanese Army which once occupied it or now occupies it.

As to the University of SHANGHAI, taken as an example in your letter, since the Chinese Army at the outset of the battles in SHANGHAI and vicinity used that University as a base for resistance, the Japanese Army as a result of the fighting to repulse the Chinese/ unavoidably damaged it. It is due to military requirements that the Japanese Army has since then continued to occupy the said

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University. However, of late the Imperial Government, in consideration of various situations and in accordance with its fundamental principle to respect the rights and interests of third countries, has decided to stop this military use of the said University and to evacuate Army and Navy forces from it by July 5th on these conditions: that it shall not be opened until it is no longer an obstacle to our military requirements; that friendly consideration be given in connection with the residence of watchmen and the repair of the buildings, insofar as concrete proposals from the owner of the said University do not hinder military operations; and that as to the damage caused by its use by the Japanese Army, consideration shall be given in the future as in the case of damage of the same kind inflicted upon property owned by nationals of third countries.

The Imperial Consul-general on the spot has already informed your Consul-general of this.

In the next place, regarding the return of nationals of your country to the various lower areas watered by the YANGTZE River, the said district is still infested with defeated troops lurking in various places, and we cannot forecast when an unforeseen incident may break out. Since the police of the Imperial Consulate alone are not enough to protect nationals of third countries, soldiers must be spared from units that are duty bound to take part in fighting. This is a great burden to the Japanese troops.

It is true that about 300 Japanese live at NANKING under such circumstances, but they are only men who are permitted to live there

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from military necessity. There are many examples of how these Japanese suffered from violence and robbery at the hands of recalcitrant Chinese, in spite of rigorous measures of protection and security given them. However, as those who suffered wrongs were the Japanese, they do not attract as great attention as in the case of foreigners.

In the said district the Imperial Government is at present carrying out military operations which are unavoidable from the standpoint of self-defense. Today SHANGHAI and NANKING seem apparently to enjoy tranquil peace, but as bases of operations, they are in a state under which not only special considerations must be taken for protecting military secrets, but also many dangerous elements creep in to hatch plots. Therefore, we cannot but take a view fundamentally different from that of your country which contends, on a basis of mere external appearance, that the said district is not a dangerous one.

You understand that it is extremely difficult to permit nationals of third countries to return to the abovementioned districts under such conditions of public order. Nevertheless, we have given every possible friendly consideration to satisfy the desires of the citizens of your country. There are many cases already wherein return was permitted in May and June, and there is absolutely no intention /on our part/ to refuse/ such desires/. It is our policy to permit gradual return hereafter in keeping with circumstances in various places.

Henceforth may I express repeated assurance of my esteem to your Excellency.

6 July 1933
UGAKI - Minister of Foreign
Affairs to His Excellency,
United States Ambassador
GREN, at TOKYO

As regards the problem of returning British nationals to NANKING, a problem was raised by six employees of the HOCHI Company who went to NINGPO without our previous knowledge. The Imperial Government, however, taking a wide view of Japanese-British relations and especially appreciating the efforts of British Ambassador CRAIGIE in TOKYO to promote friendly relations between the two countries, and partially hoping to repay him therefore, has determined to grant passes to NANKING to the said six British nationals upon their once returning to SHANGHAI. Furthermore, it is decided that our local authorities will issue the same, if the British guarantee the trust-worthiness of those individuals. Thus, the trouble has been settled smoothly.

By the way, that the Imperial Government takes sufficient consideration of the rights and interests of third countries and their citizens in CHINA and is always endeavoring to take fair and proper measures may be said to be shown in the following two or three instances:

1. The Japanese troops withdrew from the University of SHANGHAI on July 5th.
2. We agreed at the end of last month to issue passes permitting two American businessmen, employees of the Standard Oil Company and the Texas Oil Company, to go

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to NINGPO.

It is widely known that prior to the above, between May 31st and June 16th, 35 American ministers, physicians, and nurses came back to NANKING and to other lower areas watered by the YANGTZE River.

There are 20 of those Americans who received the above permission according to the American report. This /difference in number/ is due to the fact that some of them seem to have made direct application to the Imperial authorities instead of the United States Consul-general.

5. As regards the 14 American ministers' return to SU-CHOW, the local authorities have reported that they are to issue passes to all of them by the end of June. To six of them, however, passes have already been issued.

Certificate

Certificate as to Source and Nature of Document (No.3)

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section of the Japanese Foreign Office, certify that the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 6 pages and entitled "The Announcement of the Information Bureau Concerning the Problem of the Return of English and Americans in CHINA and Other Problems (17 July 1933)" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Government (Japanese Foreign Office).

9 April 1947

At: TOKYO

HAYASHI, Kaoru (seal)

Signed

The above signature and seal were affixed in my presence.

On the same date at the same place.

Witness: URABE, Katsima (seal)

在支英米 人復歸國其ノ他ニ關スル情報部發報

(昭和十三年七月十七日)

米國人ノ南京其他揚子江下流地方ヘノ復歸國ニ關シテハ、頃來日米兩國ニ交渉協定中ナリシカ、兩國友好關係ニ益ミ且ツハ「グループ」米國大使ノ好意的努力ヲ蒙リシ、帝國政府ハ七月六日附在東京米國大使宛左記公文ヲ發シ茲ニ本問題ノ解決ヲ見タリ。

記

以舊曆曆上致儀禮者五月三十一日附貴國ヲ以テ廣口前大臣宛五月十七日附貴國ニ書及セラレ更ニ貴國政府ノ訓令ニ基ク趣ヲ以テ在支米國市民ヲシテ、日本軍ニヨリ立退カシメラレタル各自ノ財產又ハ日本軍ノ管テ占領シ或ハ今尙占領シツツアル各自ノ財產ニ再ヒ歸還又ハコレヲ占有セシムルコトヲ可能ナラシムル件ニ付貴國政府ハ一會關心ヲ深メツツアル旨御申越有之國悉致候
貴國御例示ノ上海大品ニ付テハ上海及其附近ニ於テ裁斷行ハレタル當初

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支那軍同大學ヲ占據シ抵抗セルヲ以テ日本軍ニ於テコレヲ驅逐スル爲交
戰ノ結果同大學ニ損害ヲ與ヘタルハ已ムヲ得サル所ニシテ其後日本軍カ
同大學ヲ占據シ來リタルハ軍事上ノ必要ニ因ツル次第ニ有之候然共帝國
政府ニ於テハ最近各種ノ事態考慮ノ結果第三國權益尊重ノ帝國政府ノ根
本方針ニ則リ軍事上差支ナキ時機ニ至ル迄同大學ハ同校セサルコト其監
視人ノ住込ミ及校舍ノ修繕ニ付テハ同大學所有者ヨリノ具體的申出カ軍
事行動ニ支障ヲ來タササル限り好意的考慮ヲ爲フコト故ニ日本軍ノ使用
ニヨリ生シタル損害ニ因シテハ第三國人財産ノ毀レル同額損害ト共ニ將
來考慮スルコトヲ條件トシ同大學ノ軍事使用ヲ取止メ七月五日迄ニ陸海
軍共ニ同大學ヨリ撤去スルコトニ決定シ既ニ現地ニ於テ帝國總領事ヨリ
貴國總領事ニ對シ右通達済ニ有之候。

次ニ揚子江下流ノ該地方へ貴國市民歸還ノ件ニ付テハ同地方ニハ今尚ホ
敗殘兵各所ニ潛伏シ居リ絶エス出沒シ何時突發事件起ルヤ豫測シ難キ實
情ニテ第三國人保護ノ爲ニハ帝國領事館警察ノミニテハ不充分ナルヲ以
テ戰團參加ヲ任務トスル部隊ヨリ特ニ兵ヲ制キテコレニ當ラシメサルヲ

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得ス日本軍ニトリテハ非常ナル負擔ト相成ル次第ニ有之候。

此ノ如キ狀況下ニ在ル南京ニ日本人八百名餘居住シ居ルハ事實ナルモ之等日本人ハ軍ノ必要上居住ヲ認メ居ルモノノミニ有之而シテ石日本人ニ對シテハ嚴重ナル保護ヲ加ヘ居ルニ拘ラス不潔支那人ヨリ暴行強盜等ノ難ヲ受ケタル事例ハ多々有之候モ唯日本人ノ被害ナルカ爲外國人ノ組合ノ如ク目立タサル迄ノ實狀ニ有之候。

河東上地方ノ現狀ニ付テハ帝國政府トシテハ自衛上必要已ムヲ得ス現在尙ホ軍事行動ヲ行シツツアル今日上海南京等ハ皆已平靜ナルカ如キ現アルモ實際ニハ作戦基地トシテ軍糧保持ノ爲特殊ノ考慮ヲ要スル事情アル・ミナラス現ニ危險分子多數潛入シ居リ各種陰謀企圖セラレ居ル等ノ關係モアリ表面ノミヲ見テコレヲ危險區域ニアラスト主張セラルル貴國側面意向トハ根本的ニ異ル見解ヲ執ラサルヲ導サル次第ニ有之候。

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右ノ如キ治安狀況ニ於テ第三國人ノ上記地方通過ヲ認ムルハ頗ル困難ナルコトハ御察相成ルコト存候然ルニモ不拘貴國市民ノ要道遠慮方ニ付テハ出來得ル限り好意的考慮ヲ施ヒ五六月中通過ヲ認メタル件ハ斷ニ相

管多數有之也。シテテテ拒絶シ居ル次第ニハ之今迄モ各地ノ安寧ニ則
シ漸次承認スル方針ニ有之也。

右由通譯本大臣ハ茲ニ直ニテ閣下ニ向テ敬意ヲ表シ候。

明治三十三年七月六日

宇 垣 外 務 大 臣

左 京

「グルー」米國大使 閣下

尙英領人ノ在京居留問題ニ關シテハ茲ニ和氣洋行社長六名ヲ我方事務前
ノ了得ヲ求ムルコトヲ無事ニテ遂行シタル爲問題ヲ生シテ居タルガ
今般帝國政府ハ日英關係ノ大局的見地ヨリ特ニ在京「クレイギー」英
國大使ノ兩國友好關係増進ニ對スル努力ヲ多トシ之ニ酬ユル趣旨ヲモ
含メ前記六名ノ英國人カ一應上海ニ歸還シタル上ハ我方ニ於テ南京復
歸ノ進行許可證ヲ與フルコトトシ、更ニ六名ノ英國人ニ對シ英國側ニ
於テ其人物ニシテ信用シ得ルモノナルコトヲ保證スル場合ニハ我方出
先官憲ニ於テ同様南京復歸ノ許可證ヲ發給スルコトニ決定シ本件モ亦

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圖 解決ヲ見ルニ至レリ。

因ミニ帝國政府力在支第三國及第三國人ノ權益ニ對シ十二分ノ考慮ヲ賜ヒ常ニ公正妥當ノ措置ニ努メ居ルコトハ左ノ二、三、ノ諸例ニ依ルモ明瞭ナリト云フヘシ。

一、日本領ハ上海大品ヨリ七月五日撤退セリ。

二、戦方ハ客月末米國商人「スタンダード・オイル」及ヒ「テキサス」

兩石油会社員計二名ノ赴寧ニ對スル許可證發給方ヲ承諾セリ。

右ニ先立テ五月三十一日乃至六月十六日間ニ於テ米國人宣教師、醫師及看護婦三十五名ノ南京及ヒ其他ノ揚子江下流地方ヘノ歸還ヲ見タルコト周知ノ通りナリ。

尚ホ右許可ヲ受ケタル米國人ノ數ニ付米國側ノ報告ニ依レハ二十名トナリ居ルモ右ハ之等米國人ノ内或者ハ米國總領事館ヲ經由セスシテ直接帝國官憲ニ申出テタルト覺シキモノアルニ由ル。

三、米國人宣教師十四名ノ蘇州歸還方ニ關シテハ六月末右全部ニ對シテ許可證ヲ近々發給スヘキ筈ナル旨日先官憲ヨリ報告アリタルカ内六名

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ニ對シテハ此ニ許可證發給濟ナリ。

文書ノ出所並ニ成立ニ關スル證明書

自分、林 義 外務省文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添付セラレタル日本語ニ依ツテ書カレ六頁ヨリ成ル在支英米國人返歸問題其ノ他ニ關スル情報部發表（昭和十三年七月十七日）ト題スル書類ハ日本政府（外務省）ノ保管ニ係ル公文書ノ正確ニシテ眞實ナル寫シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月九日

於東京

林

義

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人 補 部 勝 馬

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